

4: Nino--127 M-3 (1893-1911) 1912 SF10 Chiriguano SF10



View of the Santa Rosa Mission.

1912
346
133

/173 cont./

342

[462]

The canes, or sticks, are attached in the same way as in the roof, with the difference that for the walls they are put in double order, outside and inside, so that they can serve as a support for the dampened earth, which in the end is like a large bag, long and tall, around the house. This other work is done by the Indian men, engaged beforehand by the promise of chicha; next they too dig in the wet soil /174/ dampened by the rain or by water, and help the women in the operation of forming the walls.

With such simplicity, the four walls are raised in a single day, everything being completed; at the present time almost all houses have a gallery where the men and women always sit to enjoy the cool of the mornings and the evenings in friendly gatherings, a gallery which is even used for sleeping on excessively hot nights, especially when inside there is an abundance of vinchucas and other insects (1).

• 346
476

1. In Parapiti a school for 150 girls was built and finished in 12 hours; nothing had been prepared for this building; it was planned the day before and done at once by all the inhabitants.

342

With the erection of the gallery, the house is completely finished, and the Indian content and satisfied. In present-day buildings care is taken to place the door, or entry, at one end of the house which corresponds to the gallery, and many have two, one in front of the other, in order to have a way to the patio which they make with a fence of thorns for greater comfort.

342
281

[322]

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The doors are of cane, which they tie together like mats, but vertically, with ceiba bark or with cowhide thongs, which are more durable indoors. If an Indian can get a cowhide, he makes a door of Guayapa wood, or, as the whites call it, zacharrosa, or another soft wood, which he puts in a hole left in the construction; he makes another frame with its hinges made of the same wood, soaks the hide, and fastens it in this